

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED

DATE ENTERED

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORMSEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS**1 NAME**

HISTORIC

AND/OR COMMON

PARMENTER MEMORIAL HALL

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

Southeast corner, Eighth and Dearborn

CITY, TOWN

Baldwin City

VICINITY OF

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

No. 3 Larry Winn

STATE

Kansas

CODE

20

COUNTY

Douglas

CODE

045

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

☐ DISTRICT☒ BUILDING(S)☐ STRUCTURE☐ SITE☐ OBJECT

OWNERSHIP

☐ PUBLIC☒ PRIVATE☐ BOTH

PUBLIC ACQUISITION

☐ IN PROCESS☐ BEING CONSIDERED

STATUS

☐ OCCUPIED☒ UNOCCUPIED☐ WORK IN PROGRESS

ACCESSIBLE

☒ YES: RESTRICTED☐ YES: UNRESTRICTED☐ NO

PRESENT USE

☐ AGRICULTURE☐ MUSEUM☐ COMMERCIAL☐ PARK☐ EDUCATIONAL☐ PRIVATE RESIDENCE☐ ENTERTAINMENT☐ RELIGIOUS☐ GOVERNMENT☐ SCIENTIFIC☐ INDUSTRIAL☐ TRANSPORTATION☐ MILITARY☒ OTHER: None**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME

Baker University

STREET & NUMBER

606 Eighth Street

CITY, TOWN

Baldwin City

VICINITY OF

STATE
Kansas

66006

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTIONCOURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Register of Deeds

STREET & NUMBER

Douglas County Courthouse

CITY, TOWN

Lawrence

STATE
Kansas**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE

Historic Sites Survey

DATE

1969

☐ FEDERAL ☒ STATE ☐ COUNTY ☐ LOCALDEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

Kansas State Historical Society

CITY, TOWN

Topeka

STATE
Kansas

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION

☐ EXCELLENT
☐ GOOD
☒ FAIR

☐ DETERIORATED
☐ RUINS
☐ UNEXPOSED

CHECK ONE

☐ UNALTERED
☒ ALTERED

CHECK ONE

☒ ORIGINAL SITE
☐ MOVED DATE _____

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Parmenter Hall is a two and one-half story native stone building with a full basement and a mansard roof whose design was influenced by the French Empire style. The building is located at the north end of a small campus, one block east of the main street in Baldwin, and is surrounded by many trees. The open belfry, also with a mansard roof, which graces the roofline of the building was added after the structure's completion. The building measures 80 by 60 feet. The different construction stages are visible in the stone work as the stones are smaller on the first story than on the second. The mansard roof is covered with wood shingles.

The main entrance has been centrally placed on the east facade. It is through a set of double doors up a flight of stairs, necessitated by the high basement foundation. A double staircase leading down to the basement level is located beneath the main steps. The frame around the main doorway has been finely carved and has a segmental pediment with upturned ends that is supported on either side by carved brackets. There are six windows across the first story of the east facade. Thin, round-headed windows have been placed to either side of the main doorway, while the other windows have segmental arches. All the windows have a simple stone sill and are framed with a smooth stone band. There are six evenly spaced windows across the second story. These windows are long and thin with rounded-arches and have simple stone sills, but the stone frames only extend around the arch. The corners of the building are quoined with a darker colored stone, and the eaves which project from the building are supported by widely spaced, elaborately carved brackets. Tie rods with star-shaped ends have been used to strengthen the exterior walls at various points. A smooth stone stringcourse separates the foundation, which is squared rubble and is constructed of a lighter colored stone, from the upper walls. The four windows in the basement align with the outer two windows on this facade. Three dormers with segmental pediments and round-headed windows are located above the entablature on the mansard.

The north and south facades have similar window configurations. There is a grouping of three windows on each story on the west end of the facades. Two other windows have been widely spaced on the remaining part of the facades. The treatment of these windows is similar to those on the east facade, with long, thin round-headed windows on the second story and those with segmental arches on the first. There are four dormers and two brick chimneys above the entablature on the mansard.

There is a central grouping of three windows on each story on the west facade with a window centered on the remaining wall space to either side. The second story windows are stained glass. There is an iron fire escape which leads from the three grouped windows on the second story to the roof of a small, one story wood shed that abuts to the building.

B SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES 1865-1871

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Construction of Parmenter Hall, as the building is now known, was begun on the Baker University campus in 1865.

Baker University, the oldest four-year college in Kansas, was chartered by the territorial legislature on February 12, 1858. The Kansas Educational Association of the Methodist Episcopal church located the school at Palmyra, Douglas county, in exchange for land donated to the school by the town company. (Palmyra was later absorbed by Baldwin City.)

The first building of the college, Old Castle Hall (a National Register property), was erected one block off campus in 1858. The school trustees lacked the financial resources to build the type of permanent building they wanted on the campus and so constructed a temporary facility elsewhere.

In 1863 the Kansas Educational Association began to make plans and raise funds for a new college building. The college's agent, W.H. Scholfield, was authorized to sell building lots that belonged to the college to raise funds. He also made a fund-raising trip to the East and was able to secure a number of donations, including \$100 from President Lincoln in February, 1864. The foundation for the new building was laid in 1865. At commencement time in June, 1866, the cornerstone ceremonies were held. The chief address was given by Marcus J. Parrott, the first congressman from Kansas. But construction was then delayed for a lack of funds.

The operation and status of the college was discussed at each annual conference of the Kansas Methodist Episcopal church. The minutes of the March, 1869, meeting recorded that \$7,000 had already been invested on the building, and only the foundation and the first floor walls had been completed. The conference recommended that the faculty be reduced to such a level as could be supported by tuition so other resources could go into completion of the building. That decision was somewhat disastrous since faculty reduction caused the enrollment to drop to 30.

The 1870 report indicated that the third story was partially completed. By 1871 the building had been enclosed and in March the students and faculty left Old Castle Hall for the new facility. Only the first story was ready for use, and that condition continued for about ten years.

The decade of the 1880's brought full utilization of the building and increased enrollment for the college. In 1882 a tower and belfry were placed on the building

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CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER

PAGE

8.

and a large bell was installed, a gift of the citizens of the community, which was by then known as Baldwin City. Another building was begun in 1884 as enrollment increased to 350.

The uses of this building and the names applied to it changed over the years. For about 15 years it was the college building. Later it was the Science Hall and then the Old Science Hall. In 1938 it was remodeled and then named Parmenter Hall after Charles S. Parmenter, a long-time professor of biology and university administrator. Uses have included administrative offices, a gymnasium, theater, museum, classrooms, laboratories and music rooms.

More than \$500,000 has now been raised to renovate the structure to provide new facilities for the art and theater departments. The exterior will be restored.

Parmenter Hall is significant for its more than 100 years of service in educating the students of Baker University, the oldest four-year college operating in Kansas. In addition the building has long been a landmark in the community. Its graceful cupola rises above the trees, identifying the community from a distance. Because the different construction phases are so readily apparent, the building tells much about the history of the small college.

Gracie Lynn Architectural

ORGANIZATION

Kansas State Historical Society

STREET & NUMBER

520 First St.

9.

History of the State of Kansas (Chicago, A.T. Andreas, 1883), p. 355.

"Lincoln Played Part in Early Baker History," Topeka Capital, February 10, 1936.

"Oldest Kansas College," Topeka Mail and Breeze, March 18, 1898.

"Parmenter: Restoring a Heritage," Baker World, VII (Winter, 1976), pp. 3-7.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Baker University Clippings, 1883-1941 (Kansas State Historical Society library).

Ebright, Homer Kingsley, The History of Baker University, (Baldwin, Kansas, Baker University, 1951).

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY less than one

UTM REFERENCES

A 115 3099810 4294245
ZONE EASTING NORTHING

B
ZONE EASTING NORTHING

C

D

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE Richard Pankratz, Director, Historic Sites Survey
Cornelia Wyma, Architectural Historian

ORGANIZATION Kansas State Historical Society

STREET & NUMBER 120 West Tenth

CITY OR TOWN Topeka

DATE October 1, 1976

TELEPHONE 913-296-3251

STATE Kansas

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL

STATE X

LOCAL

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

Wyle H. Miller

TITLE Executive Director, Kansas State Historical Society

DATE November 17, 1976

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

ATTEST:

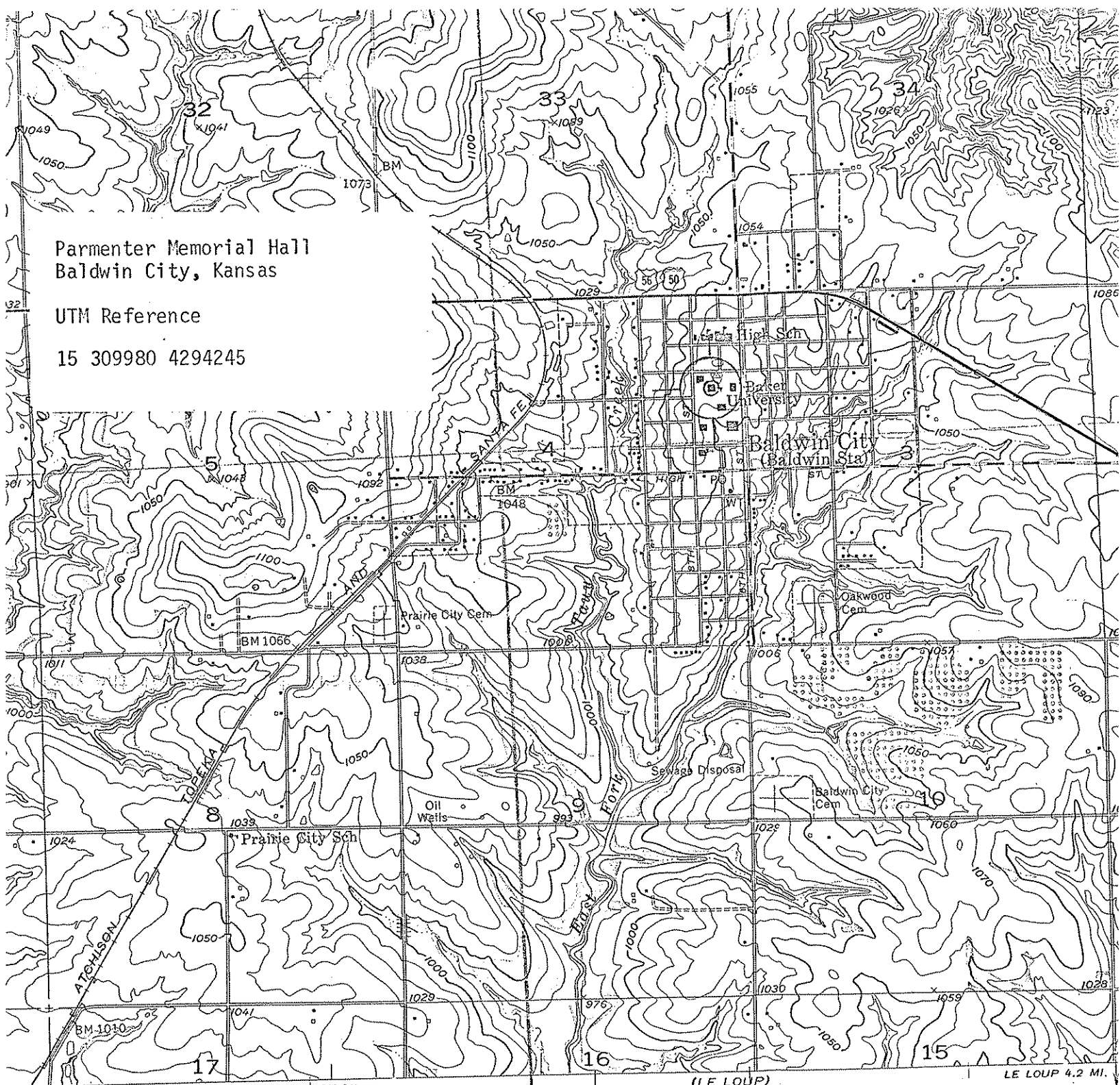
DATE

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

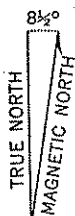
Parmenter Memorial Hall
Baldwin City, Kansas

UTM Reference

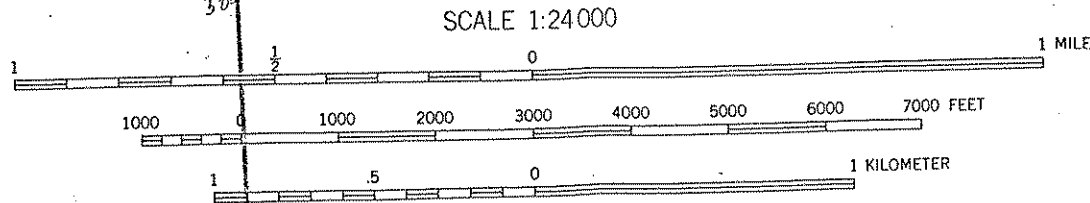
15 309980 4294245



Baldwin City
Quadrangle



APPROXIMATE MEAN
DECLINATION, 1957



CONTOUR INTERVAL 10 FEET
DATUM IS MEAN SEA LEVEL

THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS
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AND BY THE STATE GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, LAWRENCE, KANSAS
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